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National Indian Health Board
**NATIONAL TRIBAL
COVID-19 RESPONSE**

910 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, D.C. 20003 | 202-507-4070 | www.nihb.org

The National Indian Health Board is committed to ensuring that the Tribes remain informed on COVID-19 and have the resources and assistance needed to respond to the pandemic. This newsletter will contain the latest resources, announcements and information on scheduled calls and webinars.

To view all of our resources, please be sure to visit our COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center at www.nihb.org/covid-19.

Thursday, April 1, 2021

www.nihb.org/covid-19

NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center

- Vaccine Information and Tribal Support **Resources**
- Community Health **Tools**
- Advocacy **Tools**
- Funding Opportunities and Technical

\$95 Million in Funding for Telehealth in Tribal Communities from IHS

On March 26, the [Indian Health Service](#) (IHS) released a [Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader](#) on the allocation of \$95 million for telehealth services. This funding comes from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This announcement updates the allocation of this funding based on the April 1, 2021 Tribal consultation that was held in response to the addition of funds from the CARES Act.

Specifically, IHS intends to allocate \$67 million



Assistance Resources

- [List](#) of Member and Partner Organizations to find regionally-specific resources
- Upcoming Calls Webinars and [Events](#)

Wearing a Mask is an Act of Love

[Learn More](#)



**Kaci Wallette, NIHB
Billings Area
Representative and
Councilwoman, Fort
Peck Tribes**

to the IHS and Tribal Health Programs (THPs) for program increases for hospitals and health clinics, alcohol, substance abuse, and mental health funding. This will be distributed using existing distribution formulas mentioned in the April 1, consultation. The remaining \$28 million will be used in a variety of ways such as nationwide outreach, education, training, technical assistance, contract management and policy development activities. These allocations are intended to help Indian country through Tribal hospitals and clinics in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic by improving telehealth services that have been seen to significantly increase health care effectiveness in Indian country. In a recent [letter](#) written by the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) to the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS), the [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB) supported the view that telehealth has become a best practice in health care for Tribal communities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NIHB 2021 National Tribal Public Health Summit April 27-29, 2021



Register today!

Share your Work: Submit an Abstract
Deadline Friday, April 2

Nominate Someone for a Public Health
Innovation Award
Deadline Friday, April 2

Become an Exhibitor
Deadline Friday, April 9

Webinars and Events

ACF Tribal Consultation on American Rescue Plan Act Funding, Thursday, April 1

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will be holding Tribal Consultation to discuss new programs funded under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Tribal Consultation will be held Thursday, April 1, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm EST.



Written comments are requested by Friday, April 9, 2021, and can be submitted to anacommissioner@acf.hhs.gov; subject line: American Rescue Plan.

Thursday, April 1, 2021
3:00 - 5:00 PM Eastern Time
[Register for the Webinar](#)

Announcements

FEMA Advisory on Funeral Reimbursement Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) has issued an advisory on its COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program. The program provides reimbursement for funeral expenses related to a death in the United States, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, attributed to COVID-19.



FEMA

Eligibility is largely dependent on the individual's ability to provide a copy of a death certificate that attributes the respective death to COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established guidance regarding death certifications for COVID-19.

More information about the program and the specific policy can be found in the advisory and at [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](#).

ACF Releases Nearly \$10 Billion in COVID-19 Relief Funds to State, Territory, and Tribal CCDF Programs

On February 3, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) awarded nearly \$10 billion in supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program funding to states, territories, and Tribes to address the needs of child care providers and families resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. These funds were made available under the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116-260).



Funds can be used for a range of activities, including continuing payments and assistance to help child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures and to ensure that providers are able to remain open or reopen; providing child care assistance to essential workers without regard to income eligibility requirements; providing relief from

copayments and tuition payments for families; delivering technical assistance to help child care providers implement practices in line with guidance from state, territory, and local health departments and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the safe provision of child care services; and supporting other allowable CCDF program activities. The Office of Child Care (OCC) will provide further guidance to states, territories, and Tribes, including information on reporting requirements for these funds, through the [**OCC COVID-19 Resources page**](#).

Update to the Medicaid and CHIP COVID-19 Response Frequently Asked Questions

On January 6, the [**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**](#) (CMS) updated its [**Frequently Asked Questions**](#) (FAQs) for state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) and the agencies response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This is the eighth addition of the FAQs, meaning that new questions and answers were incorporated into the previously published FAQs responding to COVID-19. This version of FAQs covers topics like eligibility and enrollment, financing, CHIP, benefits and Managed Care. These FAQs intend to aid individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP to understand special exceptions, protections and changes that may pertain to them specifically during the continuation of the public health emergency. The [**full list of Frequently Asked Questions**](#) covers other areas such as information technology and emergency preparedness.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker

V-safe is a new after vaccination health tracker that allows people who receive a COVID-19 vaccine to quickly and directly tell CDC how they feel after vaccination. This smartphone-based tool uses text messaging and web surveys to provide you with personalized health check-ins and remind you when it is time for your 2nd dose of vaccine. Learn more about this new tool including information on how to register and complete a **v-safe** health check-in, information for healthcare providers, troubleshooting, FAQs, and contact information for technical support: [Click Here](#).



NIHB Tribal Infection Control Steering Committee

The **National Indian Health Board** (NIHB) has partnered with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) on **Project Firstline**—a comprehensive infection control program designed to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases in U.S.

healthcare settings. With Project Firstline funding, NIHB is implementing a multi-pronged approach to providing infection prevention and control (IPC) training and technical assistance to Tribal health officials and Tribal health systems including a mentorship and training program for Tribal health professionals. To help guide the development of the training NIHB is creating a steering committee that will review and advise on program materials and provide advisory for developing and implementing the infection control projects.



For interest in joining the steering committee and other Project Firstline opportunities, contact Carmen Sanders at canders@nihb.org.

HRSA Seeks Input from Entities Affected by 340B Changes

The **Health Resources and Services Administration** (HRSA) is asking Tribes and other entities for input on the recent actions taken by pharmaceutical manufacturers to limit the access of covered entities to 340B drugs.



The 340B program allows discounts to certain safety-net health care providers on covered outpatient drugs from drug manufacturers. Manufacturers participating in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program agree to charge covered entities a price that will not exceed the ceiling price when selling covered outpatient drugs to covered entities. Covered entities are supposed to receive these drugs at reduced prices. However, the recent actions by the pharmaceutical industry threatens the availability of these drugs at the reduced price. The 340B Prime Vendor Program has a tool to assist covered entities in reporting these issues to HRSA. Follow the link to the tool [here](#).

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**Visit the NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center at www.nihb.org/covid-19.
Reach the NIHB COVID-19 Response Team, contact CWheeler@nihb.org**

For media inquiries, contact April Hale at AHale@nihb.org



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